(b) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research proposes to make better use of land to improve farm strategies; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) The research programmes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities have been reoriented for developing better land use management systems.

उत्तर प्रदेश में खेतिहर मजदूर

1384. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने खेतिहर मजदूर हैं ;

(ख) उनकी दशा में सुधार लाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) क्या उन पर जीवन बीमा योजना लागू की जाएगी और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एच. के. एल. भगत) : (क) भारत की जनगणना, 1981 के अनुसार, उत्तर प्रदेश में 51.8 लाख खेतिहर मजदूर थे ।

(ख) खेतिहर मजदूरों को लागू विभिन्न श्रम कानूनों के अलावा एकीकृत ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम और जवाहर रोजगार योजना जैसे गरीबी-निवारण कार्यक्रमों के जरिये राज्य के गरीब वर्गों को मजदूरी रोजगार और स्व-रोजगार उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं जिनमें बहुत बड़ी संख्या में खेतिहर मजदूर शामिल हैं। 1988-89 और 1989-90 (सितम्बर, 1989 तक) के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में एकीकृत ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत खेतिहर मजदूरों के क्रमशः 1.75 लाख और 0.97 लाख परिवारों को सहायता प्रदान की गई है। जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अंतर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य को वर्ष 1989-90 के लिए 51706.13 लाख रुपए की राशि आवंटित की गई है और फरवरी, 1990 तक इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत 1266.28 लाख श्रम दिव के रोजगार का सृजन किया गया है।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 18 जनवरी, 1988 से भूमिहीन खेतिहर मजदूरों के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार की ग्रुप बीमा योजना को लागू किया है । 30 सितम्बर, 1989 तक, इस योजना के अधीन 1,333 परिवारों को लाभ प्राप्त हुए थे ।

Involvement of State Governments for raising funds for construction of new railway lines

1385. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to involve State Governments in raising funds for the construction of new rail lines;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked all State Governments to share the construction of new rail lines; and

(c) whether any State Government has agreed to the said proposal; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such general decision has been taken. However, in case of Mankhurd-Belapur project in Maharashtra, the State Govt. is contributing through CIDCO funds to the extent of 67 per cent. In case of new Konkan Railway project the four concerned State Govts. are also likely to contribute funds.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Defining the term of weaker sections of the society

1386. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Central Government to define the term 'weaker sections of the society' and also that appropriate guidelines be laid down;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have since taken any steps so far to define the said term and to lay down appropriate guidelines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on 31-1-90 relates to the definition of term 'weaker sections of the society' in the context of exemptions given under Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 by the Maharashtra Government. The judgement contains some directions to the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra. The matter is under examination and necessary action is being taken by the Government.

Review of National housing policy

1387. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the existing national policy on housing and also propose to bring an action plan to tackle the problem; and

(b) to what extent the poor people are likely to be benefited by the new policy on housing?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is keen to introduce specific schemes for increasing the access of the Urban and rural poor to shelter and basic services. It is already operating a number of scheces in the Central Plan for the rural poor belongings to Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes, pavement dwellers in metropolitan cities, and poor households in large cities.

Inclusion of chillies for fixing support price

1388. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to include Chillies for fixing minimum support price; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to implement the same?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposals for new railway lines for Andhra Pradesh

1389. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals of new railway lines pending from Andhra Pradesh for consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A new BG line between Tenali and Patencheru (9.35 km) which had been approved in 1981-82 at a cost of Rs. 5.15 crores is pending due to acute constraint of resources.

Procurement of paddy

1390. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have recently been received from Coastal Andhra region regarding the fall of paddy prices well below the minimum support prices in Andhra Pradesh and to open purchase centres by Food Corporation of India to procure paddy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with State Government, Food Corporation of India has opened 44 purchase centres. If required, more purchase centres will be opened in the State.